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Statement to National League

George Moscone

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SAN FRANCISCO

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FOR RELEASE:
Tuesday, February 24
12: Noon

CHICAGO, ILL-----The following statement was made by San Francisco Mayor George R. Moscone at the National League of Professional Baseball owners' meeting at the Marriott Hotel in Chicago today:

"Gentlemen, I appreciate your giving me this opportunity once again to discuss the matter of the San Francisco Giants. I am most grateful for the time you afforded me in January during your meeting in Phoenix and, once again, I promise to make my presentation to you brief.

"As you are all well aware, Mr. Robert Lurie of San Francisco and Mr. Robert Short of Minneapolis have made an offer to purchase the San Francisco Giants which has been approved by the Giants Board of Directors. In my discussions with both of these gentlemen prior to their offer, it became clear to me that they will keep the Giants in San Francisco should their offer be approved by the powers that be.

"When we met in Phoenix, I told you of my intention to seek new ownership for the Giants which would, in fact, keep the team in San Francisco and it was my clear sense of that meeting that should such ownership be found, the National League would approve such a transfer of ownership. I am hopeful that will occur this afternoon.

"I know that all of you are deeply concerned, as you should be, about the future success of the Giants in San Francisco. I share that concern with you. I want to assure you, gentlemen, that I would not have spent the countless hours I did seeking out ownership to keep the Giants in San Francisco if I thought that all we would be preserving would be a ghost of a ballclub.

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"Mr. Lurie and Mr. Short are known to you all. They have extensive backgrounds in baseball and equally important, they know the necessity to promote their ballclub and to make their ballclub a part of the community. We have discussed this amongst ourselves and we are agreed that the Giants will not survive in San Francisco without an aggressive front office and without a front office sensitive to the needs of the community.

"Further, I think it important that you fully recognize the mood of the people in San Francisco and throughout the Bay Area. Perhaps we have taken the Giants for granted over the past few years, but we all realize now that we have come within a hair's breadth of losing them and there has been a re-awakening. Letters and phone calls have poured into my office in support of the Giants. A rally is planned for March 3 and I am told that between 3,000 and 5,000 people are expected to attend.

"I have talked with the President of our Chamber of Commerce and they have promised an all out effort to help the Giants. They have already begun to organize within their ranks to sell season tickets to all of their members and they will designate specific individuals to have the responsibility of selling season tickets within their own business community. Someone will be designated to sell to Savings and Loans, someone to sell to Banks, someone to sell to Real Estate agents and so on down the line. For those who cannot afford season tickets, other plans will be available to purchase tickets for five games, or ten. A parade is currently being planned for the day before opening day. An all out effort is underway to enlist members in the Giants Booster Club. Bumper strips are being printed and advertisements, paid for by the Chamber of Commerce will be purchased to promote the team. In short, gentlemen, San Francisco is ready to do its part to return the Giants to the box

office stature they once enjoyed in San Francisco.

"Finally, I want to speak to you about the concerns you may have about the nature of the lease between the City and County of San Francisco and the Giants. I have become aware during these past few weeks that there are several areas in which any new owner would want to look very closely. I fully recognize that the 50¢ admission tax, that the possessory interest tax, that utility charges, that clean-up charges and security are all areas which must be considered by any new owners. While I am not in a position as Mayor of a city which has a clearly defined legislative and executive separation of powers to unilaterally promise renegotiation of these or any other contractual matters, I will tell you now what I have already told Mr. Lurie and Mr. Short -- namely, that I am anxious to sit down with them, to bring in members of the Board of Supervisors, and to begin discussions as to how the City can possibly help to make the Giants a thriving and profitable venture.

"It is important that you know that neither Mr. Lurie nor Mr. Short, as they told the court in San Francisco, place any renegotiations as a condition of their purchase.

"Of course, all of us in government must ultimately do what we determine to be in the best interest of our City -- and not unlike the Giants, San Francisco is not in the best of fiscal circumstances. But nonetheless, I am open to discussion on these matters and I think I can fairly represent that the Board of Supervisors would be open as well.

"Again, I wish to thank you for your time and I sincerely urge your unanimous approval of the Lurie-Short offer so we can begin what I know will be a great season for the Giants and for professional baseball.

"Thank you."